

THE STORY OF UTAH'S CANYONS
Treasures of Pioneer History Vol 6

DANIELS CANYON — WASATCH COUNTY

413

It was not long after the first settlers of 1859 started to develop the land near the creeks coming into Provo Valley from nearby canyons, that herdsmen sought for close-by range for their livestock. Others explored the canyons for timber stands with which to build homes in Provo Valley and Utah Valley; so, just as the Provo Canyon road was built, *Daniels Canyon* was opened for this same purpose.

A man whose surname was Daniels lived close to the creek and trapped along it to the head of the canyon and it was from him that the canyon derived its name. Through the canyon, which was very narrow, with high, rugged sides, ran a stream of crystal clear water in the spring and early summer, which dwindled away to a small brook in the fall. The canyon sides were covered with grass, shrubs, mahogany, scrub oak and maple, also service berries, elderberries and choke cherries, and on toward the 8,000 feet summit, quaking aspens, and different species of pine grew in abundance.

At intervals, starting from the mouth of the canyon, other canyons break away east and west from Daniels Canyon. These provided fine summer pasture for cattle and sheep herds. As one starts into the canyon, Noakes and Bromley Hollow comes in from the west onto the bench-ground west of the creek, which was tilled in pioneer days.

As you go into the canyon proper *Boomer Canyon* comes in from the west. Boomer Bench, a high flat country breaks off into the canyon here. The *Dry Fork* comes in from the east; Parker Hollow comes in from the west. *Clegg Canyon*, named for a Mr. Clegg who had a sawmill there, comes in from the east. Next, Cummings Hollow, from the west, named for a family who operated a sawmill in that vicinity. Station Hollow comes in from the west, so named because of a station located there where riders who carried mail to Vernal could rest and change horses.

Center Canyon comes in from the east and was the location of another sawmill. Between this canyon and Dead Horse Flat, Cory Hanks, who was so cruelly maimed in a giant-cap explosion, had a little store and there he lived with his mother. Next *Turner Canyon* comes in from the west where Turners owned a sawmill. Then Rowe Hollow, which supposedly got its name because Indians and white men had a skirmish there. *Three Forks*, one canyon from the east, two from the west comes in next. Here John Turner had another sawmill; then comes *McQuire Canyon* from the east where Patrick McQuire built a sawmill.

Near the head of the canyon are small hollows—Shingle Hollow where the Alexanders ran a sawmill and Noakes made shingles. Forman Hollow where the Formans had a sawmill and Charles E. Thacker a shingle mill at the forks of the hollow. Small streams



were born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1822. They were married in 1842, and a son, John, was born to them a year later. After joining the Mormon Church in 1849, the family came to America in 1850, settling first in Illinois and then in Utah. The father went on to California. In 1855, Margaret Turner married John Muir and they moved to Heber in 1860. John Muir owned the only tannery in the valley for many years.

Margaret Turner died on May 26, 1897. John Turner married Agnes Montgomery on February 10, 1864. Agnes was born in 1847, at Dalryre, Scotland, daughter of Robert and Mary Lourie Montgomery. Her family joined the Church about 1847, and their home was headquarters for Mormon missionaries until 1861, when her father came to Utah. One year later the family joined him. Just five months after their arrival he passed away, in January, 1862. Her brothers and sisters were: Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, Levi, Robert, Christine, Josephine and John.

John and Agnes Turner were an industrious, enterprising young couple, active in the mercantile, livestock, farming and lumber businesses, and owned a number of sawmill sets in the canyons east of Heber. In the following years these enterprises furnished employment for the entire Turner family. They built the "Turner Opera House," one of the finest amusement halls in the West. Many of the best theater troops that traveled through the country played on its spacious stage. Local talent, wedding parties, dances, and county fair exhibits found outlet within its friendly walls. In later years it housed a picture show, skating rink, bowling alleys, and garage.

This stalwart landmark was finally destroyed by fire during the 1940s.

John and Agnes Turner had a large family, seven sons and four daughters: William, Robert, Agnes Levi, Moroni, Margaret, John M., James L., Mary L., Joseph C. and Josie.

John Turner died April 19, 1906. Agnes Turner died October 14, 1927. She was a member of the first DUP camp in Heber and a member of the Forget-Me-Not camp when it was divided.

Need Pigot of - Lumbering & Milling in Daniels Canyon

Patrick Henry Sawmill

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